

Joel Roberts Poinsett to Andrew Jackson, December 17, 1832, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

JOEL R. POINSETT TO JACKSON.

Charleston, December 17, 1832.

Confidential

Dear Sir, I returned last night from Columbia, where the Union party assembled in convention. Nearly two hundred members attended and the party were represented from the mountains to the Sea board. The best spirit prevailed throughout and we have expressed in strong language our determination to adhere to the Union and to resist the arbitrary proceedings of the majority. I will tomorrow send you a copy of the address and remonstrance which was signed by two hundred of the most respectable men in the state and which represent more truly the feelings of the state than the ordinance and acts of the Legislature.

Your proclamation has just been brought me. I am sure, knowing me as you do, you will not question my sincerity or my motives, when I say, that I regard it as a most able exposition of the principles of our government, an affecting appeal to the citizens of South Carolina, and a wise, determined and firm resolution to save the country from destruction. It does you infinite credit and will tend to elevate your well deserved reputation more highly than any other act of your life. These men are reckless and desperate and I have little hope of a peaceful termination of this conflict. We will be prepared to assist the government in forcibly putting them down. Our convention has declared itself permanent, and appointed a Committee, under the name of Committee of Correspondence, but really

Library of Congress

an executive Committee of five to conduct the business of the party. It consists of J. L. Petigru and myself from Charleston, Daniel Elliott Huger and J. Manning from the Middle Country and Robert Cunningham of the Upper Country—of this Committee I am Chairman and on me will devolve the task of organising all the means of resistance in our power. This was done without the knowledge of what government might do, and therefore shows the firm determination of the party to maintain the union at all hazards.

It may be necessary to send you a messenger in a day or two. We cannot trust this post office and that of Georgetown is in bad hands, so that our nearest point is Fayette. I was requested while at Columbia to urge the removal of Mr. Rothmahler post master at Georgetown So.Ca. and the appointment of Thomas Heriot an officer in the army during the last war. This is the unanimous wish of the union party in that district.

I am Dear Sir, very respectfully your obt. Serv.